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School Committee Minutes 12/6/2012

Approved by School Committee January 10, 2013

*Arlington School Committee
Regular School Committee Meeting
Thursday, December 6, 2012
6:30 p.m.*

*Arlington High School
School Committee Room – Sixth Floor
869 Massachusetts Avenue
Arlington, MA 02476*

Present: Dr. Karsi Allison-Ampe, Chair, Mr. Judson Pierce, Vice Chair, Ms. Leba Heigham, Secretary, Mr. Jeff Thielman, Ms. Cindy Starks, Mr. William Hayner and Mr. Paul Schlichtman.

Dr. Kathleen Bodie, Superintendent, Dr. Laura Chesson, Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Diane Johnson, Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Robert Spiegel, Human Resource Officer, Ms. Linda Hanson, AEA President, Leah Mesh-Ferguson, Student Representative, and Ms. Karen Fitzgerald, Administrative Assistant

Absent: Ms. Kathleen Lockyer, Interim Special Education Director and AAA representatives.

Dr. Chesson, and Ms. Johnson, exited the meeting at 9:39 pm.

Dr. Bodie and Mr. Spiegel exited the meeting at 9:42 pm.

Opening Remarks

Dr. Allison-Ampe welcomed the Principals and Department Heads, Leah Mesh-Ferguson, Senior Class President and Ms. Hanson AEA President to the meeting, and read a quote from Edmund Burke. Dr. Ampe expressed concern the way the group supporting the Immersion Language Program contacted Arlington Public Schools staff by sending out emails without proper identification.

Public Participation

Melisa Tintocilis apologized to the committee members and staff of Arlington for the emails and suggested that the future of Arlington is in need for Foreign Language and an Immersion Language Program and would like a pilot program to start in 2013.

Amy Gear, apologized to the committee for sending emails and noted the efforts of many and appreciates the community support of an Immersion Language Program by participating in an online survey, by sending emails and by signing a petition..

Erin G, supports the initiative of the Immersion Language Program in Arlington.

David Monsiak, supports children learning another language and culture for all children.

Scott Lever, Arlington native and parent supports the Immersion Language Program in Arlington.

Monika supports bilingual language and said that it would benefit all levels of people by Arlington being competitive with the

private schools.

Support "Books for Bill" for the new Thompson School Library

Mr. Thielman supports "Books for Bill" and encourage the School Committee members and community join the fundraising efforts to provide the William Shea Library at the Thompson School with a full library of books when they open in September 2013.

FY 14 Budget Priorities from Principals & Department Heads

Mr. Tim Ruggere, Ottoson Middle School Principal presented his School Improvement Plan for 2012-2013 and said he welcomes students to use Plato tool as soon as the middle school receives their licenses. Mr. Ruggere goals for next year include to add additional Assistant Principal, Foreign Language Teacher and increase Math Support for 6th grade students.

Ms. Mary Villano, Arlington High School Principal provided NESDC highlights as did student representative Leah Mesh-Ferguson. Ms. Villano said the Student Improvement Plan aligns with the District Goals, and the biggest focus is on Student Achievement, which is on student needs and what Arlington Public Schools can do to meet student needs. Some ongoing goals for the high school would be to hire a new Math Teacher, decrease class sizes in level B curriculum, and make Math a 4-year requirement as it is a prerequisite to attend Massachusetts State University's. Other goals would be to increase the History staff by one to hire a Research Skills teacher and address transition issues between the middle school and high school.

Dr. Bodie introduced all Elementary Principals: Mr. Michael Hanna, Ms. Stephanie Zerchykov, Mr. Mark McAneny, Ms. Sheri Donovan, Ms. Karen Hartley, Dr. Eileen Woods, and said Ms. Deb D'Amico was absent due to illness. Ms. Sheri Donovan, and Mr. Michael Hanna said there was a sense of unity among all the principals to increase student achievement and common grounds to improve math, provide professional development, to hire Math Coaches at all Elementary level schools, as well as adoption of Tools of the Mind in the Kindergarten program. Adding elementary teaching positions, and purchasing Lucy Calkins Writing materials as well as the TERC programs would also benefit students. The power point presentation was a team effort and included thanking the School Committee for providing the administration with Full Time Assistant Superintendent, High Quality Professional Development, Full Time Stratton Principal, Social Workers in each Elementary School last year.

The School Committee appreciated hearing what the administrations needs were and after hearing from each school, Mr. Schlichtman said he would like to be able to make it work and support each of them.

Dr. Allison-Ampe wanted to hear the principals opinion on the Language Immersion Program, and they all agreed that they first need to support our English Language Learners Program and would not recommend rushing into a program without full district support, staff and long range planning.

Monthly Financial Report

Ms. Johnson deferred this report to next meeting.

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Update on Thompson Rebuild

Dr. Bodie said where we were on the construction of the Thompson School and provided the committee with TES Baseline Schedule of the project, which is a new schedule plan and said we were in good shape.

Superintendent Report

Dr. Bodie said the AHS Band Concert is on December 12, 2012 and welcomed everyone to attend and she congratulated the Brackett and Pierce 5th grade Chorus, as well as invited everyone to the Mural Art Project at the Arlington Boys & Girls Club on Sunday, December 9th at 2:00 p.m. Dr. Bodie thanked AEF for putting on a nice fundraiser and appreciations all they do for Arlington students.

Subcommittee & Liaison Reports

Policies & Procedures, Mr. J. Pierce said they will meet again on Tuesday, December 11, at 5:00 p.m.

Budget Ms. Starks reported that they met prior to tonight's meeting and on December 20th the School Committee will discuss what needs they heard tonight from the Administration.

Ms. Starks noted she was concerned with the Secretary of Education holding two meetings on the budget without any notice to

communities and made the following motion:

Ms. Starks moved that the Chair sign the letter drafted by her on behalf of the entire School Committee to Secretary Reville, and cc: Governor Deval Patrick, Representatives Garballey, Kaufman, Senate Donnelly, seconded by Ms. Heigham.

Voted: 7-0

Community Relation, Ms. Heigham said the meeting will be announced shortly.

Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment & Accountability, Mr. Thielman will meet on Monday, December 17th at 5:30 to discuss survey on the School Calendar on holidays as well as the Language Immersion Program.

Facilities, Mr. Hayner will meet on Monday, December 10th at 5:30 and will also discuss the new proposal from Dr. Flynn regarding land on 22 Mill Street.

Legal Services Review, Dr. Ampe said they will meet soon.

Dr. Allison-Ampe said she attended the Long Range Planning meeting at Town Hall Wednesday and will continue to meet on facilities issues and plans. She did say the town and schools are in good shape with the budget, additional discussion regarding Minuteman High School and will meet again in February to discuss facility plans. Dr. Allison-Ampe suggested that the administration send the School Committee a letter or message regarding Minuteman, and then a discussion will begin.

Consent Agenda

Ms. Heigham moved to approve the consent agenda as presented,

***Approval of Warrant: None, *Minutes for Approval: None, and *Approval of AHS Band, Orchestra and Chorus, Washington, D.C. trip, May 2013, seconded by Mr. Thielman.**

Voted: 6-0-1, Mr. Hayner abstained.

The committee members suggested that the vote to approve the trip be postponed until additional information be provided. Mr. Thielman said due to time, and fundraising concerns the committee should vote to approve the trip now but requested to Dr. Bodie she provide the committee with additional information on the trip, since students will be missing school and performing only one day on Saturday.

Secretary's Report

Ms. Heigham provided the ASC Secretary's Report dated December 6, 2012

Letters:

Copy of letter regarding "22 Mill Street, Arlington, MA" to William F. Flynn Jr., MD from Kirsi Allison-Ampe, MD, Chair of the Arlington School Committee, dated November 26, 2012

Letter regarding "Mill Street land parcel" from William F. Flynn Jr., M.D., dated November 28, 2012

Letter from Assunta Pizzotti, Administrator for Arlington Community Education, dated November 29, 2012

Letter regarding "Budget Requests for FY14 and Future Fiscal Years" from Kathleen Bodie, Superintendent of Arlington Public Schools, dated December 3, 2012

Emails:

Email regarding "attn: Andrew Levin" and Free After School Fitness from Robert Bartholomew, dated November 27, 2012

Email regarding "9C Spending Reductions" from Sean Garballey, dated December 4, 2012

Email regarding "Mural celebration this Sunday" from David Ardito, dated December 6, 2012

Bracket School Newsletter, dated November 26, 2012

Executive Session

Mr. Thielman moved to enter Executive Session at 9:39 p.m. to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with union and/or nonunion personnel or contract negotiations with union and/or nonunion in which if held in an open meeting may have a detrimental effect, to conduct strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation, in which if held in an open meeting may have a detrimental effect, Collective bargaining may also be conducted and to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel: Kathleen Bodie, Ed. D, Superintendent and to exit out only for the purpose of adjournment, seconded by Mr. Hayner.

Roll Call: unanimous

Voted: 7-0

Adjourn

Mr. Hayner moved to adjourn at 10:00 p.m. seconded by Ms. Starks.

Voted: 7-0

*Respectfully submitted by
Karen M. Fitzgerald
Administrative Assistant
Arlington School Committee*